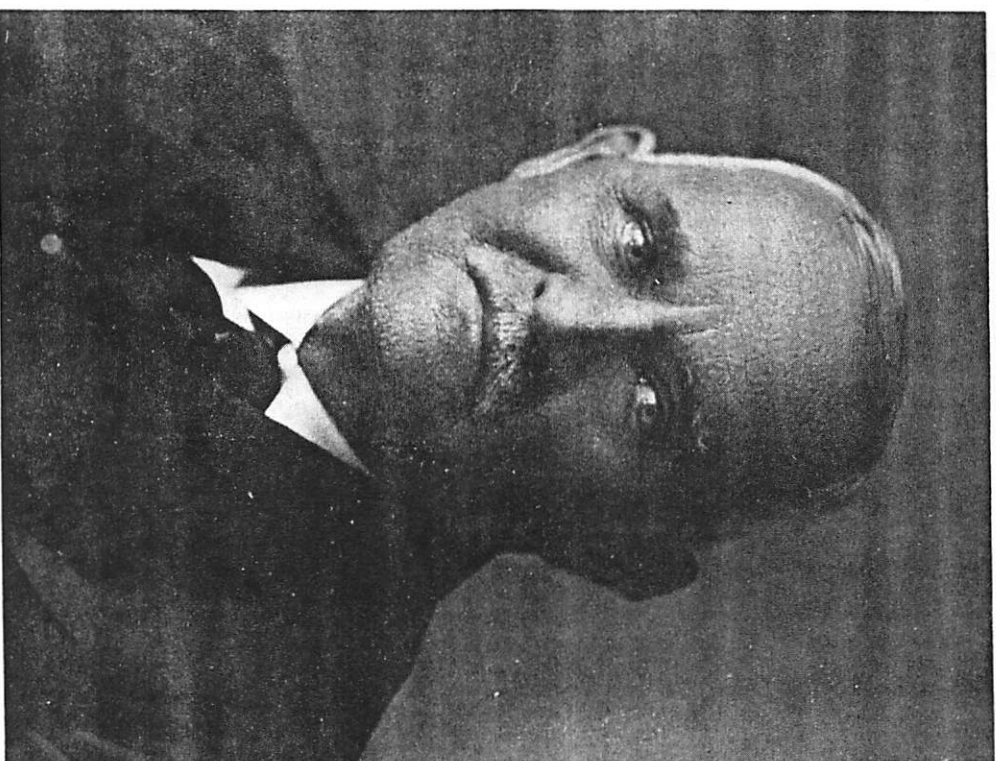


## Chapter 6

### CHARLES MARSTELLER ALEXANDER

*Pioneer*

*by Marilyn Price Adams, his granddaughter*



Charles Marsteller Alexander

It was that frightful year of 1846. Nauvoo the beautiful had become Nauvoo the terrorized. Mobs were raging. They were burning homes, destroying crops, and persecuting the Mormon saints who had, under the great leadership of their prophet and mayor, Joseph Smith, built a beautiful "Zion" in this once marshy no-man's-land.

Young Henry Samuel Alexander was fearful for his new bride, Mary Marsteller. They had just married the previous year on October 12, 1845, and she was soon to have their first child. She had come from Sharpsburg, Maryland, and here in Nauvoo she had met and married the handsome young corporal of the great Nauvoo militia. The Nauvoo Temple was almost completed, and on January 29, 1846, they were able to receive their endowments and be sealed to each other for eternity. It was here in Nauvoo that Mary thought she would have her child, but this was not to be. With the other saints, they fled for their lives even though winter was upon them. They were obliged to cross the frozen Mississippi in much haste that cold November. It was soon after that he was born.

November 21, 1846. It was in Iowa - a little town called Charleston in Lee County. There was something to be thankful for this Thanksgiving season after all. They had each other, and now they had this healthy newborn son. They were a family. They named him Charles Marsteller.

So Charles' first home was a covered wagon. His first 'outing' was a lengthy trek over frozen wagon trails to their goal, a large encampment of saints known as Council Bluffs in the state of Iowa. They remained there for a time. Mary was expecting another baby. Arthur was born there in Council Bluffs, but died shortly after his birth. The trials and suffering of this pioneer group were intense, and Mary was unable to overcome the complications of this second pregnancy under such adverse circumstances and she also passed away in a short time.

In 1848, young Henry was ready to come west with the saints, but how could he make such a trip with tiny Charles? His cousin, Jane Houston, was desirous of going west too, so after they reached an

agreement satisfactory to each of them, they were married on February 12, 1849. As this was a marriage of convenience rather than love, they agreed that if either of them should find a more suitable mate, they would release the other. So on June 6, 1849, Henry, Jane, and little Charles, left Council Bluffs, Iowa in the Orson Spencer Company. There were about one hundred wagons and families in this group. Merchants, Livingston and Kincaid, were among them. They brought along forty to fifty tons of merchandise, and although they were not Mormons, they opened the first store in the Salt Lake valley. The saints brought with them their oxen, cows, horses, sheep, pigs, chickens, cats, dogs, ducks, turkeys, and doves.

Traveling across the plains was slow and was not without incident. Samuel Gully, captain of their smaller group, died of cholera as did a number of others whom they buried along the way. They experienced some terrifying stampedes. It would happen after bedding down for the night. They would be awakened by a thunderous roar that caused the ground to shake. The bellowing of maddened, stampeding cattle was so frightening as the animals rushed furiously over the guards and anything in their way, even the wagons. Henry and the other men mounted their horses and with rifles in hand, followed the sound of the herd for hours before locating and rounding up what cattle were not lost. It was very frightening to the women and children to be left at camp under the protection of a few armed guards because they knew that the Indians roamed the area waiting to plunder and were probably the cause of the stampede. They suffered two or three of these stampedes before they came upon the plan of chaining and tying up each of the oxen and cattle at night.

And then the storms! Shower after shower of rain, wind, thunder, lightning and hail made their progress so slow. They got stuck time after time in the mud and mire. Then finally, on September 22nd of that year, they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. Here, Henry, Jane and Charles settled for a year, after which they were sent on to Mill Creek Canyon by President Brigham Young where Henry built a sawmill and sawed the first shingles to be made in Utah. Jane took care of little Charles until she died in childbirth August 26, 1850, and then he was raised by his father and Sarah Miles, Henry's third wife.

One memorable event in the young life of Charles took place when he was ten years old. His father had been called on a colonization mission to Carson Valley, now Nevada. Orson Hyde, a member of the Council of Twelve, was appointed to be the probate judge and the spiritual leader of the community. On this particular mission, John and Enoch Reese were the leaders and the group established the town of Genoa, which consisted of a two-story store and hotel of logs, two sides of which were part of a stockade. It was made especially strong to resist Indian attacks and to protect the animals. It became known as Mormon Station, a trading post on the trail to California, providing shelter and provisions to the travelers en route to the gold fields. A saw mill was established and run by Henry with help from Charles.

In September of 1847, the Mormon settlers from all over the west were recalled to the Salt Lake Valley to help defend the area from Johnson's Army that had been sent to take over the government of Deseret Territory. The Carson Valley group answered this call and set out across the great Nevada desert, but with inadequate supplies. Henry and Charles, with the others, suffered greatly from thirst. They were without water for three days, and Charles remembered well how parched and swollen his mouth was with his tongue protruding and dry. The party finally met up with friendly Indians who directed them to a spring. Although there were no fatalities, this was a most frightening experience for Charles and he often told his grandchildren of this Nevada episode.

On their return to the valley, Henry continued his work operating saw mills first in Lehi, then back to Mill Creek, then to Wanship, American Fork, Midway, and finally Heber City. During these years Henry's family grew in number - four boys and six girls.

While living in Wanship, Henry took Sarah and the children to Echo to see the first train come to Utah. That was such an exciting day!

Then there was the time that Chief Black Hawk, feather head-dress and all, came to their home. Charles and his half brothers and sisters watched through the doorway as the most prominent men of Wanship came. They sat in a circle on the floor with Black Hawk and smoked the pipe of peace, passing it around the circle Indian style.

And they were living in Wanship too, when the grasshoppers came. The insects were so thick that they entirely hid the sun and stripped the fields of grain. Many suffered from lack of food at that time. The Alexanders were more fortunate than most and did not suffer, but they had to measure out their flour, allowing just so much a day in order to reserve their supply for the season.

It was while living in Mill Creek that Saruki came into their lives. She was to be Charles' Indian sister. This was probably the beginning of the Indian Placement Program, except the procedure was a bit different than we know it today. Father Henry went to town, riding his beautiful horse. An Indian saw that grand horse of Henry's and wanted it, wanted it badly! He approached Henry and asked, yes, insisted on having that horse, but Henry refused. The Indian followed him home and kept demanding that he give him the horse. It would be a trade agreement, his baby, a genuine Indian baby, for the horse! "No trade," replied Mr. Alexander, "And that's final!"

Then the Indian began to walk the warpath and said, "If you don't give me the horse, me kill baby, me kill baby." So Henry took the baby and gave the Indian the horse. He and Sarah raised that little Indian child, Saruki, like their own. She was called Susan in their home and lived as a part of their family until she was sixteen years old when she died. They buried her in Wanship, where they had moved in the meantime, and mourned her passing.

So Charles grew up, raised by two step-mothers, and learned to work hard as he helped his father in the saw mills in these various

settlements where they lived. In Heber City, which was to be their permanent home now, Henry was engaged in many enterprises of Wasatch County. He was one of the founders of the Wasatch Manufacturing Company which Charles took over after his fathers' death.

Meanwhile, close by, lived the very affluent family of Bishop George Gideon Snyder. One of his children by his first wife, Sarah Hatch, was a beautiful young girl named Lovisa. She was short and slender, very neat and well groomed and had a happy, loving disposition. Charles fell in love with Visey, as she was sometimes called, and when she was just a tender seventeen and Charles twenty four, he took her for his bride in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. It was the day after Christmas, 1870. They settled in Heber City where Charles had a saw mill, and here they raised their family of nine children. There was Mary Blanche, Sarah Luella, Caroline, Charles, who died when he was but ten months old, Louis, Mabel, Guy, Blaine, and Nellie.



*The family of Charles Marsteller Alexander and Lovisa Comstock Snyder Alexander*

*Front left: Nellie, Lovisa, Charles, and Blaine  
Back left: Mabel, Louis, Guy, and Caroline*

They lived in a red brick home through those years. It was large and roomy, two stories with a cellar under the kitchen. It was remodeled from time to time. Charles added a bedroom and then a bathroom. What a novelty that was. It was one of the first bathrooms in Heber. Now there was no more heating water in the stove's reservoir and pouring it into the tin tub in the kitchen. He was very proud of their

home and kept it in such good repair. They had good furniture: a fine couch, comfortable chairs, a large dining table with a sideboard, a china cupboard, and, among other things, a player piano in the parlor. The floor was carpeted, and wallpaper covered the walls. They had a well for water which was piped into the kitchen. They were always blessed with plenty to eat; cured meat, pork and veal and some fresh beef. They had a smokehouse in the outside cellar which was rock-lined. The farm was separate, and there they raised chickens and rabbits. Two cows furnished them with plenty of milk, cream, butter and buttermilk. They had a fine vegetable garden which Charles kept producing, fruit trees, apple and pear, and many raspberry bushes. Fruit peddlers also came from Provo with all kinds of fruits and berries. Lovisa and her daughters were all good cooks, and they made delicious bread, pies, scones, doughnuts and cakes. Out in front was a big lilac tree, and a fence and gate secured this happy home.



*The Alexanders on their front porch in Heber  
Standing left: Charles, Lovisa and Nell  
Seated: Mabel and Blaine*



They belonged to the Heber East Ward, Wasatch Stake, and Lovisa was Stake Relief Society president for many years. Being the kind and thoughtful person that she was, this calling was well suited to her. She would make the rounds of the valley in a horse and buggy, often accompanied by one of the children, visiting Relief Society meetings.

They were a religious family, and family prayer was the order of the day in their home. Paying tithing was also very important, and 'as regular as clock work, they would count out the produce or crops and one of the children would take it over to the tithing office.

Charles and Lovisa took great interest in each of their children, and they had such good times together. Music was very important in their home. Charles played the fiddle, and Guy played the trumpet extremely well. He took lessons from the very best teachers. Louis played the trumpet as well as the trombone and violin, and each of the children was encouraged to develop his or her musical talents. Charles played the fiddle for dances, and sometimes Lovisa would go along with him. Caroline chordeed and Louis fiddled.

Lovisa, like her husband, was ambitious and very industrious, and they taught their children to work and urged them on to greater achievements. The boys worked with their father in the sawmill. Lovisa inherited a good head for business from her father. This became evident when she established her own millinery shop. She was a fine seamstress, and the girls learned to sew and help their mother in the shop. She also managed the first telephone exchange in Wasatch County. Since they had the first telephone in town, they operated from home, the children delivering messages. Later they operated from a telephone exchange on the property just north of their home. They all were a part of the telephone business running messages about town on the pony and minding the switchboard. The boys learned to repair the boxes and adjust the wires.

The Alexander home was also a home for many boarders. Sometimes as many as five school teachers ate around their table and slept upstairs in the bedrooms.

The holidays were happy times. For the big celebration on the fourth of July, the children often got new dress or suit to wear downtown to watch the parade. They'd buy root beer and spend that twenty-five cents they had saved for the big day. In the afternoon they held a children's dance and all the parents and grandparents and aunts and uncles came. The dance for the adults was at night. Heber City had a grand dance hall and people came from small towns all over the valley for those holidays and dances.

Birthdays were important and Lovisa made them special with decorated birthday cakes and homemade ice cream and family celebrations. Relatives would come from Park City and Salt Lake City, and they had big family dinners. The Alexanders loved to entertain and had many gatherings, reunions and parties.

There were many sad times too. One of these times was when Grandpa Snyder apostatized from the Church. Though he had been a bishop and a member of a stake presidency and had served on several missions, he became interested in spiritualism, and Satan enticed him into his camp. His entire family apostatized with him except Lovisa, Aunt Emily and Aunt Lucy, her two full sisters.

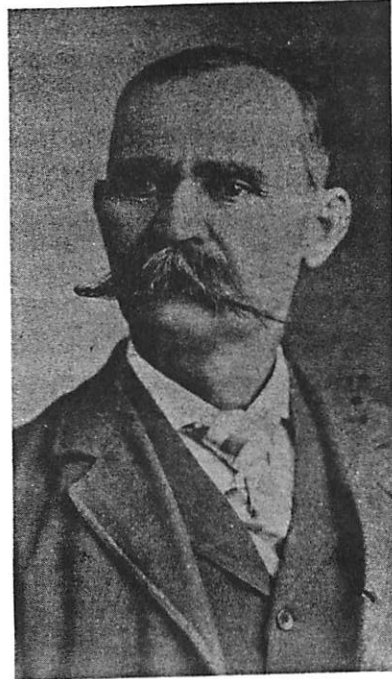
Another sorrow came when Mary Blanche and Sarah Luella, the two oldest daughters, were stricken with typhoid and both died that summer of 1883. Caroline, too, was critically ill, but survived the disease, suffering a total loss of her hair. Mary Blanche had a baby boy whom Grandma Lovisa and Grandpa Charles cared for until his father remarried ten years later. And then there was the time when they lost little Charles Snyder when he was but a few months old.

The children grew older, selected their mates, and Charles and Lovisa became Grandpa and Grandma, devoted and loving, always taking time for the grandchildren. Grandpa saved pieces of lumber for building blocks for them. He still kept a perfect garden and would pull up a tender radish or turnip for them to nibble on as they watched and helped him cultivate and water. They loved to go to Grandpa's and watch him milk the cows. Why, he even let them hold the cow's tail while he milked. He'd squirt milk into young mouths and then they'd laugh and laugh. He had a work horse called Old Kate that they'd straddle to go after the cows. Jumping in the hayloft was such fun. Grandpa made a swing that hung from the rafters and the children would swing as high as they could in the barn and then jump into the hay.

Grandpa had a fine horse and buggy and was so proud of them. He kept them immaculate for church times, and they often went for long rides. That's when they'd get to hear about the Indian and Saruki and when he was a little boy walking on the desert and nearly died of thirst.

It was a special home. It was a home of character - character in those charming walls and rooms - character in those people within those walls. Integrity describes them, integrity and absolute honesty. Industrious describes them and other words too, like refinement and modesty. Charles was so modest that if he purchased a new suit, he would not wear the complete outfit to begin with. He chose to wear the vest and trousers for a while. Then he would wear the coat and the trousers, but it was quite some time after the newness had worn off before he would dress up in the entire suit.

Strict discipline describes them too. Yes, Charles had a quick temper and was often very stern and temperamental. There were time of heated arguments, scolding and stern discipline. That too was an Alexander characteristic. Charles was most protective of his daughters, especially during their courting days. He would sit in the parlor with them when their gentlemen friends came to call, much to the embarrassment of the girls. Late hours were not allowed, and visitors were invited to leave if they stayed past the acceptable curfew. But over



*Charles Alexander*

and above all, there was a close bond of love and concern for each other.

Then came the winter of 1913 when Lovisa became very ill. She went to Salt Lake City to her brother, Dr. Creight Snyder, who put her right in the hospital. Miss Wilcox, one of the teachers who boarded in their home, insisted that she consult with her father, Dr. Wilcox. When she did, he discovered that Lovisa had cancer. With Dr. Snyder, he operated on her. He was especially interested in her case because his daughter loved Lovisa so dearly.

Ella Rasmussen, a nurse, came to take care of Lovisa, and when she was taken back to Heber, Ella went with her. Lovisa was ill for four months and then died on June 25, 1913. She was only fifty-nine years old. Charles was restless and concerned during her illness and very distraught after her death. Ella was most kind and attentive to him

during this time. He grew very fond of her and declared that she could have any one of his sons. She chose Louis and they were married just before Lovisa's passing.

Three of the children were married by now. Caroline had married William T. Wootton, Mabel was now the wife of James Robert Price, and Louis had married Ella Rasmussen. Guy was twenty five Blaine was eighteen and Nellie fifteen at the time.

Charles was lonely, but he did not marry again.

Guy married Viola Allen and more sorrow came to Charles when Guy, serving his country in World War I, was killed in a train accident.

It was about that time that Charles went to live with Mabel and Rob who had moved to 43 West Palm Lane, Phoenix, Arizona. Nellie lived with them too until her death in 1920.

Grandpa was a special part of our family there in that home his last fifteen years. He milked the cow and was very helpful around the place. Each morning he would go downstairs in the basement and light the fire in the old coal furnace. He fed the chickens and gathered the eggs. He was very gifted with his hands and liked to make things. One of those home-styled items was a little car that he made for Reed which

he could steer while others pushed. Reed seemed to be his favorite, and they were great pals.

Grandpa was an early riser it was fun to get up early with him because he would take us downstairs to the kitchen for an early morning snack. He would get out some bread and sprinkle it with sugar and maybe put just a little cream on it, and we would sit and eat bread and sugar together. When Mamma came downstairs and found us eat-

ing our early morning snack, she would be upset with Grandpa for "spoiling breakfast", but we would just smile at each other and do it again the next time we got up earlier than the rest. Sometimes we didn't get caught. Either way, it was fun to get up early with Grandpa.

Just down the street from us ran the Kenilworth streetcar line. Grandpa went to town every Wednesday and Saturday on the streetcar. It stopped at Washington Street and Second Avenue near the old Ford Hotel. He would have a shave and a shoe shine and occasionally, a haircut and then buy candy and gum for the grandchildren. I would wait on the corner when Mamma told me it was about time for him to be coming. I'd see him walking up the street and go meet him part way. Then he'd take out of his sack my special treat, a Milky Way candy bar. That candy bar was my favorite then and is still to this day. Perhaps it tastes best to me because it reminds me of my special Grandpa.



*Charles Alexander on doorstep*

He sat on the front porch a lot, passing the time of day. It was there he visited regularly with a man by the name of Mr. French who picked up the cleaning and delivered it back each week. Each time Mr. French came, Grandpa talked to him about the Church and taught him the gospel. Mr. French eventually joined the Church and declared

many times in church meetings that he had one of the greatest teachers for his missionary, Charles Marsteller Alexander.

But most of the time in those last years, he would sit in the rocking chair or the swing on the front porch and just wait - wait for the paper boy to deliver the Gazette - or just wait for those last years to pass by.

One Saturday in 1935, when Grandpa was eighty-nine, he took the streetcar as usual to town. Most of the city conductors knew him well and would let him off at Palm Lane, and by now Grandpa's memory depended on those friends of his. That Saturday, the conductor was new.

He didn't come, and he didn't come. He was always home by 5:00 o'clock. Why didn't he come today? Mother began to worry, so the rest of us did too.

The conductor didn't stop as usual at Palm Lane. The streetcar went to the end of the line, then reversed and started back to town. Grandpa was confused and somehow got off at McDowell Road and headed West. He walked and walked in 110 degree heat until he was so exhausted, he fell and lay by the sidewalk for a time before some of Robert's school friends found him and brought him home. They helped him into our living room and put him on the couch. We could see he was in severe pain, but he didn't complain. He never complained. Mother decided to put him in a downstairs bedroom by the kitchen. He insisted he could walk into the bedroom and would let no one help him except Reed who was then thirteen and slight of build. His 180 plus pounds leaned heavily on that sad young grandson, but Reed was able to finally get him to the room and on the bed. The next day, Dr. Reed Shupe determined Grandpa had a broken hip, and an ambulance took him to the hospital where his leg was set and a large cast was put on him, encasing his leg and body up to his waist. A mistake was made, and a part of the adjustable operating table was wrapped into the cast on his back side and caused a terrible open sore to form before Grandpa let them know, and it was removed. Grandpa went down fast from then on. Mother took such good care of him. She was a saintly angel in caring for people, and she loved her father so much that her care for him was most tender and tearful. After a while Grandpa got so bad that we were not permitted to go into his room anymore.

On August 30th, Grandpa died.

The obituary in the Phoenix Gazette the following day read as follows:

*Alexander, Charles M., passed away Friday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. R. Price, 43 West Palm Lane. Body was taken last night to Heber, Utah, where services and interment will be made. He is survived by two sons, Lewis S. Alexander and Blaine H. Alexander; two daughters, Mrs. Carol Wootton of Sacramento, and Mrs. J. R. Price of Phoenix. Mortensen Mortuary in charge.*

It was a sad time for us, but we were all so thankful that Grandpa didn't have to suffer any longer. We were happy that he could be with Grandma again for they had been apart for so long. Goodbye, Grandpa. We love you and we will see you again someday walking up the street with a sack in your hand full of chewing gum and Milky Way candy bars for us.

Grandpa and Grandma have blessed us with a great heritage. Indeed, we have been born of goodly parents and grandparents. Now we can bless them by expanding their kingdom - expanding not only by numbers, but by honoring them with our good lives and bringing glory to that great name -- Alexander.

#### Patriarchal Blessing

*A Blessing given by John Smith, Patriarch, upon the head of Charles M. Alexander, son of Henry S. and Mary Alexander, born Charleston, Lee, Iowa, November 21st, 1846.*

*Brother Charles, in the name of Jesus Christ I place my hands upon thy head and pronounce and seal the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob upon thee and I say unto thee be of good faith and seek wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. The eye of the Lord is upon you. He hath a work for thee to do which if thou art diligent will exalt thee hereafter and thou shalt stand on Mount Zion and be numbered among the hundred and forty-four thousand saviours of men. Seek to know the will of the Lord concerning this and thy faith shall increase and thou shalt see things as they are and be an instrument in the hands of the Lord in doing good. Thou shalt be called to labor in the ministry and shall travel much for the gospel sake and assist in gathering scattered Israel. Thou art of the blood of Joseph through the lineage of Ephraim and an heir to the priesthood and entitled to the blessings of the new and everlasting covenant. Listen to the whisperings of the still small voice of the comforter and thy guardian angel will watch over thee and warn thee of danger in time to escape. The eyes of thy understanding shall be opened and thou shalt comprehend things present and the course thou shalt be prospered in. Thy journeying at home and abroad and the evil one shall not prevail against thee. Thou shalt assist in avenging the blood of the Saints and the prophets which was shed by the ungodly and not a hair of thy head shall fall by the hands of the wicked. Thou shalt be blest in thy labors spiritually and temporarily. Hold sacred thy covenants and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon thee and give thee peace. Thou shalt confound the wisdom of the wicked and set at naught the council of the unjust. Many shall seek thee for counsel. Wonder at thy wisdom and rejoice at thy teachings. Keep the commandments of God and thou shalt become a mighty man in Israel. Thy service shall be honored down with thy posterity in honorable remembrance from generation to generation and written in the Lord's Book of Life and thou shalt get around in this world goods and that which is necessary shall seal*



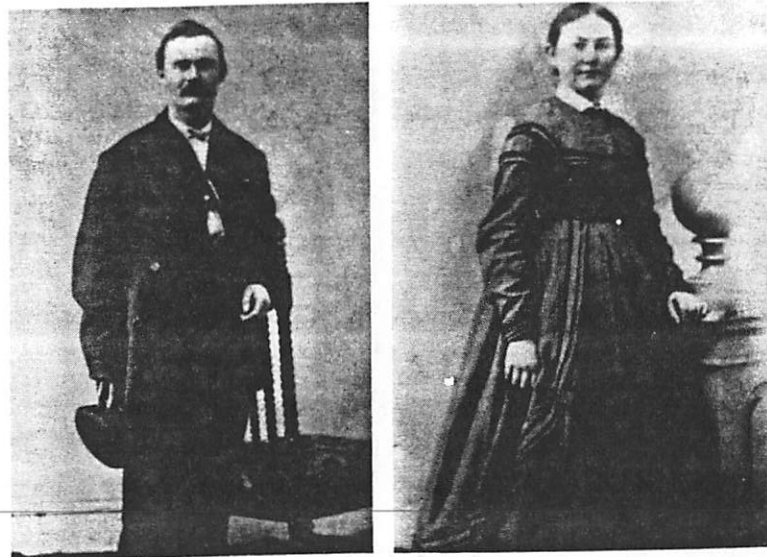
*many for time and eternity. This blessing I seal upon thy head and I seal this up unto eternal life to come forth in the coming of the first resurrection even so, Amen.*

#### About the Author

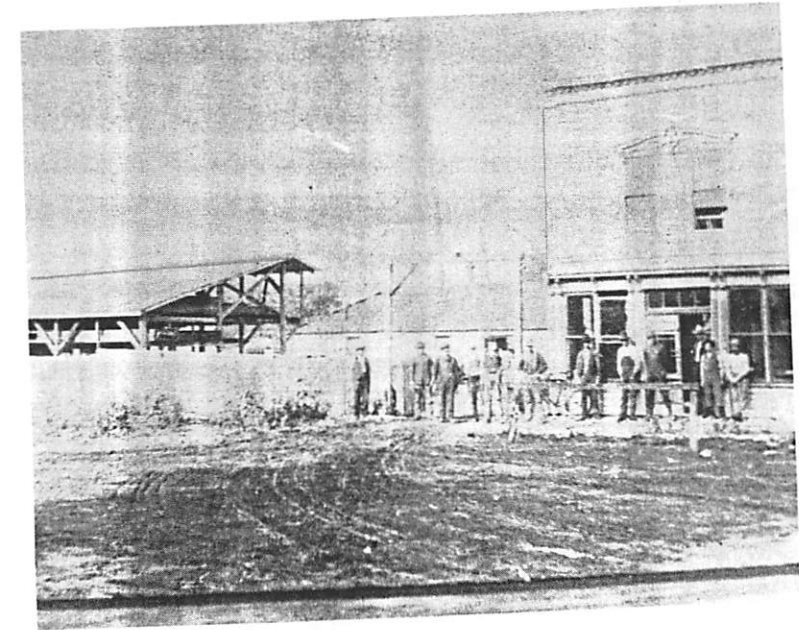


*Marilyn Price Adams*

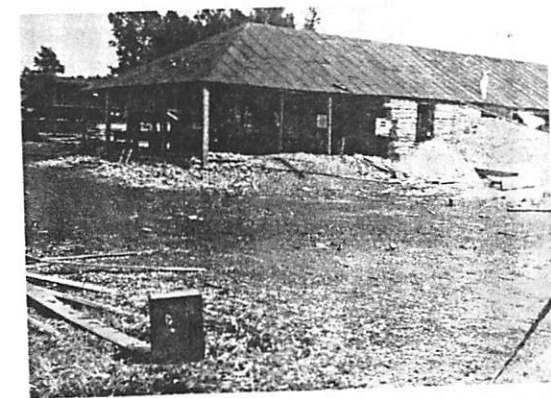
Marilyn Price Adams, granddaughter of Charles and Lovisa Alexander, is the fifth child of James Robert and Mabel Alexander Price. She was born in Long Beach, California and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. After high school, Marilyn attended the University of Utah and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. In 1948, she married Beecher D. Adams. They are the parents of four children: Beecher Dan Adams, Jr.; Christine Holland; Stephen Price Adams; Lisa Bohne; and the grandparents of sixteen grandchildren. Marilyn has been very active in Church assignments throughout her life, serving on the Young Women General Board for six years and presently serving on the Relief Society General Board.



*Young Charles and 17 year old Lovisa*



*The Alexander Sawmill*



## Chapter 7

### LOVISA COMSTOCK SNYDER ALEXANDER

*"Strength Sufficient for the Day"*

*by Marjorie Price Allen, her granddaughter*



*Lovisa Comstock Snyder Alexander*

Lovisa's long skirt whipped the dusty sidewalk as she hurried to her millinery shop in "Hatch's Row" on the main street of Heber City, Utah. She was carrying her crying baby in her arms and five-year-old Louis trotted along behind her. Many thoughts must have raced through her mind this busy morning: Oh, why did baby Guy have to be so ill on this day when there are hats to be finished, deadlines to meet! She soothed and cuddled him closer. "Poor baby, Mama knows how that earache hurts... Oh! Perhaps I should have kept Blanche home from school today... But no, with the Lord's help, I'll handle this crisis too." Then she reminded herself of the promise of her patriarchal blessing, "Thou shalt be blessed in thy daily duties." "Thy trotting became a run to keep up with her lengthened strides. "Thy guardian Angel will not forsake thee but will give thee strength sufficient for thy day."

"Strength sufficient for thy day." That phrase she so often repeated in her pleading with her Father in Heaven.

Since that day in June 1870, when hands were placed upon her head and the voice of the patriarch pronounced great blessings upon her, she had felt the reassurance of these divinely inspired promises. Even as a girl of sixteen, she had the faith to recognize that her blessing would serve as a guide and a pillar of strength throughout her life.

Born in Sacramento, California, on 25 February 1854 to George Gideon Snyder and Sarah Wilder Hatch Snyder, Lovisa Comstock Snyder would know many trials and heartaches in her fifty-nine years on earth.

Lovisa's parents had immigrated to Utah, but then had gone to California at the time of the gold rush, living there about five years. A few months after Lovisa's birth, they returned to Utah. Her father, ably assisted by his wife Sarah, acquired considerable wealth managing a boarding house for miners. At the urging of President Brigham Young, he soon took a second wife.





*George and Sarah Snyder, Lovisa's Parents*

Lovisa's first heartache came at age seven with the death of her mother. Then less than a year later, her four-year-old sister, Sarah died. Though her mother had given birth to nine children, only four--Emily, Lucy, George and Lovisa--now lived; and George died at twenty, soon after Lovisa married. Emily would marry Orvil Browning Thompson and become the great-grandmother of H. Burke Peterson, a member of the 1st Quorum of Seventy. Lucy married John William Tanner and became the grandmother of N. Eldon Tanner, a former counselor in the First Presidency.

The family lived in and near Salt Lake City the next few years, the girls always busy with such household tasks as spinning, dyeing and weaving cloth, washing their clothes on wooden wash boards, and making soap by pouring water through ashes, catching the lye as it drained out, and combining the lye with grease. Their towels and table cloths were made from flax their father raised.

In the ensuing years, Lovisa's father took four more wives and eventually had thirty-five children. These sons and daughters were fine-looking, healthy, ambitious, and well educated. Some of them became doctors and lawyers. Their father continued to be successful in his business ventures. He, with his brother, founded Park City, Utah, and Snyderville. He owned a livery stable in Park City and purchased the finest horses he could find. He also owned valuable property and farms and built fine homes for his families. He rode in the best rigs that

could be bought, and dressed himself and his families in nice clothes. He served several missions for the Church and was a spiritual leader in Summit County, where he spent most of his life after Sarah's death. He was a bishop for twenty years and was always known around the area as Bishop Snyder.

Lovisa's mother, Sarah Hatch Snyder, came from a strong religious family. When she embraced the gospel in the early days of the

Church, she did it with all her heart and taught her children to love it and live it.

Lovisa, at age seventeen, fell in love with Charles Marsteller Alexander. They were married in the Endowment House on Temple Square, 26 December 1870. Lovisa was a small, slender girl with dark hair framing a pretty face. It is quite probable that she made her own wedding dress, with the help of her older sisters.

Visey and Charles first lived in Midway next door to her father where Mary Blanche and Sarah Luella were born in 1873 and 1876. The third little girl, Caroline was born in Park City in 1878. After the family moved to Heber City, Charles, their first son, was born in 1881; his death at ten months must have torn Lovisa's heart. However, her patriarchal blessing had promised: "Thou shalt have sons and daughters who shall grow up around thy table like Olive Plants, healthy and fair." True enough, another son



*Sarah Wilder Hatch Snyder*

later. This was Louis born in July 1883.

Industrious, talented, and with good business sense, Lovisa opened a millinery shop to supplement Charles's own industrious work at the saw mill. Both of them wanted the very best for the family. Their home was a comfortable two-story, red brick. Visey kept it immaculate and attractive, while Charles kept it in good repair, remodeling it as the



*Above: Caroline Alexander  
Below: Lovisa and Blanche*



need arose. Progressive and forward-looking, they were among the first in town to install an indoor bathroom.

Their family continued to grow "like Olive Plants", and the dining table was extended to accommodate Mabel, born in 1886, then another son, Guy, in 1888. Now there were six beloved children, "healthy and fair", as the promise said.

In 1890 or '91 a telephone line was run from Park City to Heber City. A telephone, not for public use, was installed at the County Court House, but the public telephone was at the Alexander home. It was a rather lucrative business, as Lovisa received a commission on the tolls as well as the messenger service. By 1895 she had a two-room building constructed north of the house for the switchboard and her millinery shop.

All her children helped deliver messages, the boys learned to repair the boxes and adjust the wires, while the girls became proficient at the switchboard.

Then the typhoid epidemic of 1893, like a tyrant of monstrous bearing, ravaged the Wasatch valley, spreading disease and death indiscriminately. Few families escaped. The Alexander home felt its merciless intrusion



*Lovisa, Blanche and Baby Luella*



*Mabel and Louis Alexander*

ALEXANDER FAMILY HISTORY

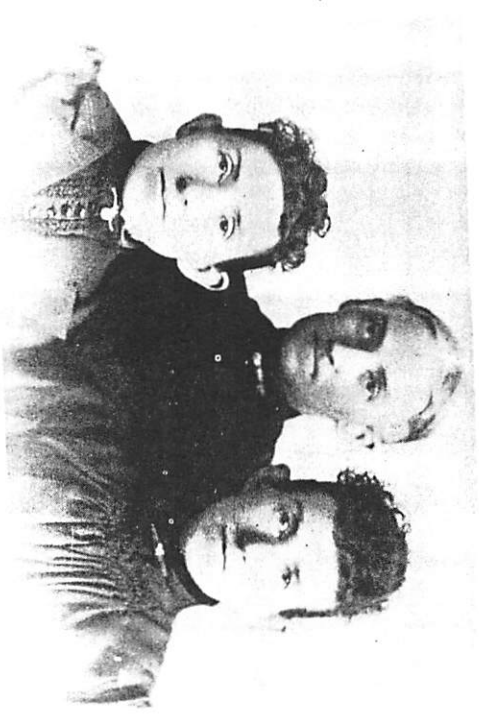


*Left: Blaine Right: Nellie*

her business affairs effectively, including her family in them. She worked diligently, sometimes far into the night, and she taught her children to share the work. She never allowed her worries or sorrows to erode the happy atmosphere of their home. A sacred moment each night was having the children kneel and pray before she tucked them into bed. Thus, they learned early to trust in their Heavenly Father, as she did. Daily family prayer and blessings on the food at every meal also brought them together.

Honesty was one of her predominant attributes and she became respected by all who knew or did business with her. Her millinery shop succeeded well, as she kept abreast of the latest styles and possessed the creativity to produce the most fashionable hats ... and, of course, hats were a most necessary accessory to a lady's attire in those days. Dressing in her most stylish best, she traveled to Salt Lake City occasionally to obtain supplies and keep up with the latest trends. On these trips she would take the Heber train through the canyon to Provo, then another train on to Salt Lake. Her brother, Willard Snyder, a mining man, would meet her at the depot in his fine rig and take her to stay at the home of one of her half-sisters. Rilla Snyder, a dress-maker of note, was a favorite, for their similar vocations gave them a common interest.

LOVISA COMSTOCK SNYDER ALEXANDER 47



*Three Sisters  
Lovisa, Emily Thompson and Lucy Tanner*

Lovisa, particularly close to her full sisters, Emily and Lucy, was concerned about her many half-brothers and half-sisters and endeavored to be an influence for good in their lives. She took it upon herself one cold November day to have two of the younger ones, Ruby and Rose, baptized. In her horse-drawn buggy, she transported them to a mill pond about a mile and a half from Heber where the ordinances were performed. It was so cold that the towels she wrapped around their dripping heads froze as they journeyed homeward. The girls never forgot the event and how important their spiritual welfare was to Lovisa. Her father's involvement in spiritualism and subsequent apostasy, with many members of the family, was a great sorrow to Lovisa.

Caroline married William Theodore Wootton 13 April 1898, a month after Nellie's birth. Lovisa's love expanded to include the grandchildren who came along in the next few years. Blanche, Caroline's daughter, remembers going home with her Aunt Mabel at age three while baby sister Rhea was born. Blanche, however, was more taken with Aunt Mabel's curling her hair and listening to stories on Grandpa's lap.

Rhea remembers being allowed into Grandmother's parlor when she was doing a fitting. There she could look at the pretty things in the china cabinet, pedal the player piano, or sit on the sofa and read a favorite little book of poetry. Coming to Grandmother's house after school was the most delightful part of the day to both Rhea and Blanche. Theodorof hot bread just out of the oven or fresh doughnuts



often greeted them as they opened the door. Grandmother, as cook and seamstress, was involved in most of the weddings in town, preparing delectable treats and making gowns, hats, and veils. For her granddaughters, she made dresses just the way they liked them with special touches of ribbon, lace, and even flowers. Grandmother always made Blanche and Rhea feel important. She taught them to sew, to trim hats, to make doughnuts and scones, to churn the butter, and even to iron when they grew tall enough to take the hot iron off the stove and replace it without burning themselves. "Rhea, when you can iron these handkerchiefs perfectly, then you may do the linen napkins," she said one day.

What an honor! Grandmother was very thorough. Everything had to be done just right or it wouldn't pass inspection. However, work with Grandmother was fun. The girls delivered telephone messages, washed soot from the lamp chimneys, and made doll clothes from precious scraps of Grandmother's fabric. Blanche and her only slightly older Aunt Nell learned to operate the switchboard.

Another favorite place in Grandmother's house for Rhea and Blanche was the balcony of the front bedroom. From it, they could watch the Fourth of July parades that went down Main Street, only a short block away.

Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners at Grandma's and Grandpa's home were very special indeed. Grandmother would cook for days ahead of time--mincemeat, pumpkin, and squash for the pies, cranberry sauce, bread for the dressing. It was fun to help Grandpa catch the turkey and later pluck it. As company arrived, sometimes from out of town, the table would be spread with the best linen and china, and the most delectable smells would emanate from the kitchen! The grown-ups would be served first, while the children played together. Then while the children ate, the adults would go into the parlor to visit.

On Christmas and the Fourth of July, a town dance was held in the afternoon for the children. Grandmother and Grandfather, parents, uncles and aunts would dance with the children. In the evening, the adults would then have their own dance, the women carrying their dancing slippers in a bag to the festive event.

Memorial Day, too, called for dressing in best attire, visiting the family graves, and then enjoying another of Grandmother's superb dinners.

Family and friends, businesses and home took a proportionate share of Lovisa's life, love, and time; but so did Church service. "Thou art remembered among the daughters of Zion of whom much is expected," Lovisa's blessing admonished. She served in various capacities in her ward and stake, most notably in the Wasatch Stake Relief Society Presidency for a total of fifteen years. She drove her own horse and buggy on weekly visits to the ward Relief Societies throughout the valley, sometimes taking one of the younger children with her. She was an angel of mercy to the sick and the poor, no matter whether it was night or day, winter or summer. Her love and compassion for

others made their welfare her top priority at times of emergency or trials in their lives. Many asked her counsel, for her blessing declared. "Wisdom shall be given thee above many of thy sex, and those of Riper years shall acknowledge thy superior judgment."

She never missed her meetings, going alone to sacrament meetings even when the bitter cold and deep snow kept less dedicated souls, including members of her own family, snugly at home around the fire.

Lovisa also believed in education and self-improvement. In 1895 when the Shakespearean Club was formed, Lovisa was a charter member and vice-president. She also encouraged her children in educational pursuits. Blaine recalls that he had a chance, at sixteen, to go to high school at Brigham Young College, later Utah Agricultural College (now Utah State University) in Logan, boarding with the family of Bishop B.G. Thatcher and Sister Thatcher. Lovisa urged him to do it, hard as it was for her to have him leave home at such a young age. Louis was studying at the University of Utah when Lovisa died. She loved having the influence of dedicated school teachers in her home--one reason for boarding them-- and the 1910 federal census lists four school mistresses and one school master among the members of the Alexander household.

Her death was a great loss to the community as well as to her grieving family. The Heber City newspaper, published this tribute when she died 25 June 1913.

#### MRS. LOVISA ALEXANDER ANSWERS LAST SUMMONS

*Heber, June 25. After a long and serious illness, Mrs. Lovisa Alexander of Charles M. Alexander died today at her home in Heber, surrounded by her husband, part of her family, relatives and friends. Mrs. Alexander was a bright, intelligent, energetic woman and an active worker in the Church. She was one of the Stake Presidency of the Relief Society for 15 years, and was well and favorably known throughout the Wasatch Stake for her earnest, diligent labors. She was operated on for appendicitis in a Salt Lake hospital August 8, 1912. On Jan. 6, 1913 she again went under an operation, and it was found that she had cancer. She rallied from the operation, which was a very serious one, and gained some strength. Again on Feb. 10, she passed through the third operation, and has been in a serious condition ever since.*

*Mrs. Alexander was a competent business woman. She had charge of the public telephone for some 15 years here in Heber. She was the daughter of the late Judge George G. Snyder of Summit County and Sarah Haich. She was born Feb. 25, 1854 near Sacramento, Cal., but lived practically all her life in Utah. She was married to C. M. Alexander in Salt Lake City Dec. 26, 1871 and soon after came to Heber, where she has lived practically ever since. She was the mother of ten children, six of whom survive her. They are Mrs. Wm. T. Woolton, Louis S., Mrs. J. R. Price, Guy B., Blaine and Nellie. Also six grandchildren and a husband, 11 brothers and 15 sisters.*

Lovisa Comstock Snyder Alexander had been true to the admonitions of her patriarchal blessing: "I say unto thee be faithful, hold sacred thy covenants, listen to the whisperings of the Still Small voice of the Comforter." She had received its promises: "and thy guardian Angel will not forsake thee but will whisper in thine ear and give thee grace and strength sufficient for thy day and power over the Destroyer. The visions of Eternity shall be unfolded to thy view and thou shalt know the will of the Lord concerning thee... [Thou shalt] be crowned hereafter among the Mothers in Israel."

We, her descendants, say with the ancient King Lemuel:

*Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.  
The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her...*

*She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.*

*She seeketh wool, and flax and worketh willingly with her hands.*

*She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household...*

*She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy, ...*

*Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.*

*She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue is the law of kindness.*

*She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.*

*Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. (Proverbs 31:10-13, 15, 20, 25-28)*

A Blessing given by John Smith, Patriarch upon the head of Lovisa Snyder, daughter of George G. and Sarah Snyder, born Sacramento City, California 25 February 1854.

*Sister Lovisa in the name of Jesus Christ and by virtue of my office I place my hands upon thy head and pronounce and seal a blessing upon thee which if thou art faithful shall be a guide and comfort with thee through life. Therefore be of good faith and of good cheer the Lord knoweth thine integrity and will give thee Angel charge concerning thee, who hath watched over thee from thy childhood and preserved thy life for a wise purpose. Thou art remembered among the daughters of Zion of whom much is expected. Thou are of the lineage of Ephraim and entitled to the blessings of the New and Everlasting covenant. I say unto thee be faithful, hold sacred thy covenants, listen to the whisperings of the Still Small voice of the comforter and thy guardian Angel will not forsake thee but will whisper in thine ear and give thee grace and strength sufficient for thy day and power over the Destroyer. The visions of Eternity shall be unfolded to thy view and thou shalt know the will of the Lord concerning thee. Thy name shall be perpetuated, thou shalt have sons and daughters*

*who shall grow up around thy table like Olive Plants healthy and fair. Wisdom shall be given thee above many of thy sex and those of riper years shall acknowledge thy superior judgment. Thou shalt be blest in thy daily duties and no good thing shall be withheld from thee here nor hereafter if thou wilt adhere to these promptings of the monitor within thee. Thy days and years shall be many and thou shalt be blest in thine outgoings and incomings, and in thy Basket and Store let thy faith fail not and thou shalt be crowned hereafter among the Mothers in Israel. Thy name shall be held in honorable remembrance and written in the Lambs book of life. This blessing I seal upon thy head and I seal thee up unto Eternal life to come forth in the Morning of the first Resurrection even so Amen.*

#### About the Author

Marjorie Price Allen is a granddaughter of Charles M. and Lovisa Snyder Alexander. She was born in Phoenix, Arizona, the third child of James Robert and Mabel Alexander Price. She attended Brigham Young University for two years and then transferred to the University



Marjori Price Allen

of Utah where she met Nephi Allen. Nephi Allen is the uncle of Guy Alexander, Jr., who is Marjorie's cousin. When Marjorie attended her first UofU football game, she recognized one of the cheer leaders, her cousin, Guy, and, following the game, made her way down to the bleachers to renew their acquaintance. (They had met only once before.) Guy asked her to go to the dance with him that night. She accepted and through his megaphone, Guy announced the news to "Uncle Nephi", his buddy -- and to all the spectators. Marjorie was embarrassed but it all worked out for the best as she and Nephi then had the opportunity to get to know each other.

They were married in the Arizona Temple May 1, 1941. Following World War II, they settled in Phoenix where they have reared their family of four sons: James, Steven, David, and Lawrence Allen and one daughter, Marilyn Bullock.

Marjorie's church callings have been mostly with the youth of the Church. In more recent years, she has served in Relief Society and as a Gospel Doctrine teacher. In 1985 she and her husband went on a two year mission to Australia and are now serving as President and Matron of the Arizona Temple.

## MILLINERY AND DRESSMAKING

Millinery shops also played a prominent part in the commerce of Heber, since nearly all the ladies had been schooled in the old world custom of always wearing a headdress of some kind. Many pioneer women found a place of safety for her bonnet when the wagons were being packed to come to the valley. Some few of these early pioneer hats are still in existence. Resourceful women of the pioneer era also

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## HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

wove hats of straw, but by the time the railroad came in 1899 they "imported" many of their hats from the outside world.

Earlier, however, all the hats were made right in Heber City. To give a seasonal change to the hats they re-trimmed them.

Mrs. Duncan of the Duncan House sold hats to ladies in a store just south of her hotel, and Mrs. Lovisa Alexander had a two-room shop built south of her residence at 65 S. 1st East. Alice Ryan Jones operated a very successful shop known as the Elite Millinery near her home on First North and Third East for many years. She was also a skilled teacher of her art and taught many girls how to make beautiful hats. Annie Jones Smith was also a talented milliner and worked with Mrs. Jones for many years. She would attend the Paris Millinery School each spring to learn the latest fads and fashions. Mrs. J. W. (Effruezonia) Winterose was also a professional milliner and dressmaker, and operated a shop at 135 S. Main. Mary Bond and Ruby Murdock Gott also made and sold hats.

In 1912 Mrs. William Byrne of Park City opened a millinery shop at 54 N. Main and then later moved to 4 West Center. Her shop prospered and in 1920 she sold it to Vilate McMillan and Frankie Clift. Miss McMillan became sole operator in 1921 and expanded the business to the leading women's specialty shop in Heber. She purchased property at 136 S. Main in 1943 and established her business as Vilates Shop. She still does her own buying, selling, some of the bookkeeping, window trimming and fitting. For many years Mrs. Rachel Giles and Mrs. Mary B. McMullin did the altering for the shop.

Dressmaking was as important as millinery and most of the early milliners were equally skilled as dressmakers. Alice Ryan Jones was particularly noted for her dressmaking and many of the early brides of the county were clothed in her beautiful creations. She trained many of the best seamstresses in Heber.

For years after the settlement of Heber there was no such thing as a "ready-made" dress. Material was at first spun, and then when yardage became available the women sewed dresses from this material. Some who were most deft with the needle and thread went into business. A few of these included Mrs. Amanda Clift, Isabell Jacobs, Emma West, Rachel A. Giles, Mrs. Sue Goodwin Witt, Mrs. Mary Jensen Moulton and her daughters Millie and Josie, Mrs. Susie W. Giles, Mrs. Lizzie Witt, Lizzie Averett, Sarah Smith and Rhoda Ohlweiler.

Putting together a dress in the pre-sewing machine days was quite an art. Each dress required lining, the seams had to be cat-stitched, stiffening had to be inserted in the skirt, the waist had to be boned to insure a good figure and neatness of course was paramount. The trimming was very elaborate.

Chas. Marsteller Alexander or Lovisa Alexander Snyder